

# ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS

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## Rudolf William Glaser, 1888-1947

On September 4, 1947, at Princeton, N. J., Dr. R. W. Glaser, an associate member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in the Department of Animal and Plant Pathology for 27 years, died suddenly from a heart attack. Dr. Glaser was born at Catonsville, Maryland in 1888. While a student at the University of Michigan he was employed during the summers of 1909 and 1910 as assistant biologist by the Maryland Shell-Fish Commission. After receiving his A.B. degree from the University of Michigan in 1911, he was assistant entomologist at Harvard from 1911 to 1913 and entomologist of the Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, from 1912 to 1920. In 1914 he received his Sc.D. degree from Harvard University and in 1920 he joined the Rockefeller Institute.

His studies dealt with such subjects as the wilt disease of the gipsy moth and other insects, bacterial diseases of caterpillars, the nature of polyhedral bodies found in insects, growth of insect blood cells in vitro, intracellular bacteria, the effect of food on the longevity and reproduction of flies, the cultivation of bacteriocytes in the German roach, methods for the sterile culture of houseflies, the culture of *Neoplectana glaseri*, a nematode parasite of the Japanese beetle, biochemical studies on the virus and the inclusive bodies of silkworm jaundice, etc., etc. His early papers appeared in *Psyche*, *Journal of Economic Entomology*, and *Biological Bulletin* and his later ones in the *Journal of Experimental Zoology*, *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, *Journal of Parasitology*, *Journal of Agricultural Research*, *Journal of Immunology*, etc. Some of his work on *Neoplectana glaseri* was published by the New Jersey

Department of Agriculture, and in the Journal of the New York Entomological Society. In Edward A. Steinhaus' recent book on "Insect Microbiology" (1946), a partial bibliography of Dr. Glaser's titles includes 25 from 1918 to 1943. Additional titles may be found in "Insect Dietary" (1946) by Charles T. Brues, and in "Entomology with Special Reference to its Ecological Aspects" by J. W. Folsom, revised by R. A. Wardle in 1934.

The nematode parasite of the Japanese beetle was discovered in New Jersey during May, 1929 while Dr. Glaser and Dr. Henry Fox were investigating the mortality of grubs. Later Dr. Gotthold Steiner described the nematode as a new genus and species. Because of the possibilities for beetle control in this parasite Dr. Glaser was employed as a consultant by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture on September 1, 1930 and by 1931 he had succeeded in cultivating the nematode on an artificial medium. For the next few years Dr. Glaser planned and directed experimental field introductions. This early work that was conducted at and from the Institute opened up a new field of insect control and led to the establishment at White Horse, N. J., in the spring of 1934, of a parasite laboratory by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. This laboratory cultured the nematodes on a large scale and made introductions in various parts of the state. When the nematode introductions were finished work was started with other insect parasites, and Dr. Glaser was retained as consultant until his death.

Dr. Glaser was a member of the American Society of Parasitologists, the Washington Academy, the Cambridge Entomological Club, the Michigan Chapter of Sigma Xi, and a fellow of the Entomological Society of America and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Interment was at Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Glaser was a careful, well-informed, active investigator, and an agreeable, intellectual companion whose opinions, judgment, and research work always merited the respect and consideration of his co-workers.

H. B. WEISS